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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

Mr. James F. C. Hyde, Jr. Office of Legislative Reference Office of Management and Budget Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Mr. Hyde:

This is in reply to your memorandum dated January 31, 1974, requesting the views of the Central Intelligence Agency on the reports of the Departments of Justice and State on S. 2239, a bill "Relating to intervening in and influencing the political affairs of foreign countries or political subdivisions thereof."

I note that the Senate Foreign Relations Committee report on S. 2239 refers to testimony on the ITT and the Allende election in Chile, as the basis for the legislation. During testimony before the Committee, Agency witnesses testified that CIA refused an offer of funds to influence the election. Further, the testimony confirmed that CIA has never accepted or solicited private funds to finance any of the activities proscribed under the bill. Accordingly, we offer no comments on the bill, as it does not affect Agency operations.

We are, however, concerned about the broad statements in the reports of the Departments of State and Justice which are beyond the scope of the bill and if liberally interpreted could invite legislative action to expand the language of the bill to include current and future Government financed foreign political and propaganda activities approved by the National Security Council, We feel this a matter of serious concern to the Administration and the National Security Council.

We understand that the Department of State report has been cleared by OMB. Any efforts to revise that report probably would only serve to highlight and prejudice those activities not affected by the bill. Since the Justice report has not yet been cleared, we would urge that

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Justice reconsider its report and confine its comments to the bill as written. I understand that OMB representatives share our concern and will seek to have Justice revise its report accordingly. It should be emphasized that if the Justice report is unchanged, the impact of both the Justice and State reports could prompt the House Judiciary Committee to amend the bill.

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With respect to the report of the Department of State, I would like to confirm a point clarified by of our office with Mr. Gilbert of your staff. CIA did not concur in State's report to the Senate on the bill in July of last year. At that time, CIA orally registered in effect a "no objection" when queried by OMB on a draft of the bill. We did not see or offer comments on the State report.

Sincerely,

George L. Cary Legislative Counsel